

Public Hearing Questions for
Tennessee Council for Career and Technical Education
Created by Section 49-11-201, *Tennessee Code Annotated*
(Sunset termination June 2021)

1. Provide a brief introduction to the council, including information about its purpose, statutory duties, staff, and administrative attachment.

The Tennessee Council for Career and Technical Education (TCCTE) authorized under T.C.A 49-11-201 is made up of fifteen (15) members appointed by the Governor and Speakers of the General Assembly and serves in an advisory capacity to the state board of education, the board of regents, the Governor, and the General Assembly. The members of the council appointed by the governor serve terms of six (6) years and the members appointed by the Speakers of the General Assembly serve terms of two (2) years. The council advocates for quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs which prepare students for success in post-secondary education, careers, and life. The duties of the Council are outlined in T.C.A. § 49-11-202 and include: analyzing and reporting on the distribution of spending for career and technical education in the state and on the availability of career and technical education activities and services within the state; advising the department of education and making reports to the governor, the business community, and general public on ways to strengthen career and technical education; consulting with the department of education on the establishment of evaluation criteria for career and technical education programs within the state; and evaluating career and technical education program delivery systems across the state. The Council is administratively attached to the Tennessee Board of Regents.

2. Has the council promulgated rules? If yes, please cite the reference(s).

No, the Council does not promulgate rules.

3. Provide a list of current council members and describe how membership complies with Section 49-11-201(b), *Tennessee Code Annotated*.

Council Membership:

Dean Blevins, Chairman
Post-Secondary Education Representative
President, TCAT Elizabethton

Dr. Carlos Hammonds, Vice Chairman
Private Sector Representative
High School DECA Teacher (retired)

Arlette Robinson
Secondary Education Representative
Director, College, Career and Technical Education
Bradley County Schools

Johnny Woolfolk
Private Sector Representative
Farmer, Jackson, TN

Sam Smith
Private Sector Representative
Farmer, Marshall County

Tom Glenn
Private Sector Representative
President of Elders ACE Hardware,
Chattanooga

Terri Messer
Post-Secondary Education Representative
Dean of Business and Industry, Jackson State CC

Bob Cooper
Private Sector Representative
IVEY Mechanical

Ann Johnson
Secondary Education Representative
Agriculture Sciences Teacher
Tipton County HS

Kelly Piatt
Guidance Representative
Counselor, Crockett County

Andy Nash
Private Sector Representative
Executive VP, The Farmers Bank

Mike Padgett
AKZO Nobel
Private Sector (AFL-CIO) Rep

Dr. Nicole Cobb
Special Populations Representative
Senior Lecturer, Vanderbilt University, Peabody College

Representative Andy Holt
Tennessee House Representative
House District 76 (Weakley, Obion and Carroll
Hamblen, Counties)

Senator Steve Southerland
Tennessee Senate Representative
Senate District 1 (Greene,
Cocke and Sevier Counties)

The Governor appoints thirteen (13) members, seven (7) of which represent the private sector, constituting a majority of the members. Five (5) of these members represent business, industry, trade organizations, and agriculture; two (2) represent labor organizations. Six (6) individuals are representatives of secondary and postsecondary career and technical institutions, equitably distributed among the institutions, career guidance and counseling organizations within the state, individuals who have special knowledge and qualifications with respect to the special educational and career development needs of special populations, including women, the disadvantaged, the handicapped, individuals with limited English proficiency, and minorities, and of whom one (1) member is a representative of the special education population. The speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall each appoint one (1) legislator to serve as a member of the council.

4. Are there any vacant positions on the council? If so, what steps have been taken to fill the vacancies?

There are no member vacancies on the council currently. The council had six (6) open seats (vacancies) up until Spring 2019 when all vacancies were filled by Governor Lee. The council does not currently have an executive director. Chairman Blevins has assumed the executive director duties of the council until such time as the Governor appoints an Executive Director

5. How many times did the council meet in each of the last two fiscal years?

The council met four (4) times in FY 2018/2019 and three (3) times in 2019/2020, due to COVID-19 the council cancelled its Spring 2020 meeting. The council membership virtually attended the Tennessee Department of Education, Division of College, Career and Technical Education Summer Leadership Institute during the summer of 2020.

6. How many members were present at each meeting? Please note meetings where the council did not have a quorum.

2018/2019 Fiscal Year Meeting Dates (attendance in parenthesis):

July 2018 (7 – note there were six vacancies and a quorum was declared)

September 2018 (6)

February 2019 (6)

July 2019 (11 – first meeting where all vacancies were filled)

2019/2020 Fiscal Year:

October 2019 (5 – no quorum)

February 2020 (12)

April 2020 (10)

July 2020 (9)

7. What were the council's revenues (by source) and expenditures for the last two fiscal years? Does the council carry a reserve balance?

FY 2018/2019

Revenues

Carry Forward from 2017/2018 \$15,795.44

Annual State Funding 2018/2019 \$29,400.00

Total Revenues \$29,400.00

Expenditures (Travel and Per Diem) \$15,154.53

FY 2019/2020

Revenues

Carry Forward from 2018/2019 \$30,040.91

Annual State Funding 2019/2020 \$29,400.00

One-time non-recurring state funding \$200,000.00

Total Revenues \$229,400.00

Expenditures (Travel and Per Diem) \$19,129.85

Reserve Balance \$240,311.06

The Council received a one-time non-recurring appropriation of \$200,000 for the purpose of paying salary and benefits of a full-time Executive Director during the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year. The Council along with the TBR system office will continue to work with the Governor's office and Finance and Administration regarding next steps for this appropriation.

8. What per diem or travel reimbursement do members receive? How much was paid to council members during fiscal years 2015 and 2016?

State of Tennessee travel guideline rates are used to pay travel to council members for mileage, food, and lodging. Per Diem amount for council members is \$50 per day for meetings attended.

FY 2015: \$19,388.08
FY 2016: \$31,606.72
FY 2019: \$15,154.53
FY 2020: \$19,129.85

9. Is the council subject to Sunshine Law requirements (Section 8-44-101 et seq., *Tennessee Code Annotated*) for public notice of meetings, prompt and full recording of minutes, and public access to minutes? If so, what procedures does the council have for informing the public of its meetings and making its minutes available to the public?

Yes, the Council is subject to Sunshine Law requirements. All meetings are open to the public, and meeting minutes and meeting dates are made available to the public. Compiled information is also set into the context of statewide and national trends through the Biennial Report to inform the public of decisions and impact of CTE policies, practices, and funding. The Biennial Report is distributed in hard and soft copy, publicly posted online, and promoted through social media. Stakeholders are proactively notified of upcoming meetings and public forums and invited to participate through CTE email listservs at the Department of Education and Tennessee Board of Regents. Increasingly, the Council has found social media as an effective method for reaching public stakeholders with key information and meeting notices.

10. Does the council allow for public comment at meetings? Is prior notice required for public comment? If public comment is not allowed, how does the council obtain feedback from the public?

The council meets regularly, three (3) times per year, in the Summer, Fall, and Winter. The public is welcome at all council meetings. The Spring meeting is a Public Hearing event where public comment is solicited with prior notices published on the Tennessee Board of Regents website as well as local news print media. The public at large is directed to contact the council Chairman in order to give public comment.

11. How does the council ensure that its members and staff are operating in an impartial manner and that there are no conflicts of interest? If the council operates under a formal conflict of interest policy, please attach a copy of that policy.

The Council does not have a formal conflict of interest policy but advises and draws public attention to opportunities for improvement at the discretion of regulating agencies such as the Tennessee Board of Regents. Since the council is attached to TBR, the council uses TBR policy as a guiding principal to ensure the council operates in an impartial manner.

12. What were the major accomplishments of the council during the last two fiscal years?

The Council undertook a number of activities during the last two fiscal years aimed at increasing public outreach and engagement in CTE activities across the state and nationally. The Council published the CTE Biennial Report during 2020 to focus on performance data related to CTE at the secondary and post-secondary level. Through this report, the council meets the majority of

its priorities, including: (1) evaluating and promoting successful CTE programs, (2) providing information on the distribution of funding and available resources, (3) analyzing the alignment and modernization of secondary and postsecondary CTE programs to meet industry needs, and (4) advocating for the continued improvement of Career and Technical Education. The council sent two (2) members to the national Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) conference in Washington, DC where they actively participated in the National Policy Seminar related to state and federal governing legislation for CTE during the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year. All council members participated virtually in the CTE Leadership Conference to better prepare them to be successful in their roles during the Summer of 2020. Participation in CTE conferences provided Council members with a great opportunity to become more familiar with CTE programs and economic trends, to support emerging initiatives that have the potential to improve the quality of CTE programs, to identify strong practices in secondary and postsecondary CTE, and ultimately, to make informed recommendations based on their findings. In the past two years, members of the Council have served as representatives at: the Institute for CTE Educators, the Governor's Conference on Economic and Community Development, the annual Pathways Tennessee Summit, the ACTE National Policy Seminar, ACTE's CareerTech VISION Conference, and the annual Tennessee Legislative Breakfast and Day on the Hill hosted by secondary CTE Directors. This is critical to the Council's ability to evaluate CTE programs in the state.

13. Please describe any reports prepared by the council on its operations, activities, and accomplishments and specify to whom the reports are sent. If an annual report is prepared, please provide a copy of the most recent report.

The Council produces a biennial report on the state of CTE in Tennessee and makes commendations and recommendation to promote quality CTE at all levels in Tennessee. The most recent report is being made available in the Fall of 2020 and an electronic copy is attached to this report.

14. Describe any items related to the council that require legislative attention and your proposed legislative changes.

None.

15. Should this council be continued? To what extent and in what ways would the absence of the council affect the public health, safety, or welfare?

Yes, the Council should be continued. The Tennessee Council for Career and Technical Education is the only council charged with advocating for quality Career and Technical Education programs in the state of Tennessee. If the council were to cease to exist, the promotion of Career and Technical Education would be greatly fragmented with a limited cohesive voice where CTE would surely suffer great harm.

16. Please identify the appropriate agency representative or representatives possessing substantial knowledge and understanding of the responses provided to the sunset review questions.

**Dean Blevins, Chairman
Tennessee Council for Career and
Technical Education**

17. Please identify the appropriate agency representative or representatives who will respond to the questions at the scheduled sunset hearing.

**Dean Blevins, Chairman
Tennessee Council for Career and
Technical Education**

18. Please provide the office address, telephone number, and email address of the agency representative or representatives who will respond to the questions at the scheduled sunset hearing

**Dean Blevins, Chairman
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